

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092847
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN SHIP WITH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: HONG KONG 4451

HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR

1. U.S. WILL OF COURSE CONSIDER FOR IPP-78 ANY CATEGORY I
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM NORWEGIAN TANKER JOHANNESBURG
STOVE. UNDER EXISTING IPP-78 GUIDELINES WE WOULD NOT
CONSIDER ANY OF THOSE NOT IN CATEGORY I WHO REFUSE TO GO TO
THIRD COUNTRIES. REFUGEES NOT IN CATEGORY I SHOULD BE
INFORMED OF THESE GUIDELINES AND PRESSED TO ACCEPT NORWEGIAN
OFFER.

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2. WE DO NOT WISH, HOWEVER, TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT
INDUCE HONG KONG TO TIGHTEN UP ITS CURRENT FAVORABLE POLICY
OF PROVIDING TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO BOAT REFUGEES. THEREFORE,
IN RESPONSE TO APPROACH BY HONG KONG GOVERNMENT POLITICAL
ADVISER WILSON IN REFTEL, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT WE WOULD
RATHER NOT ANSWER HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AS TO WHAT WE WOULD
DO IF REFUGEES REFUSE NORWEGIAN OFFER OF RESETTLEMENT AFTER

BEING INFORMED OF US GUIDELINES. WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE IF ANY ACTUALLY DO REFUSE NORWEGIAN RESETTLEMENT BEFORE WE

DECIDE WHETHER THEY COULD APPLY TO US FROM NORWAY. BECAUSE U.S. WAS NEXT PORT OF CALL AND SHIP DIVERTED TO HONG KONG, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO REGARD THIS CASE AS EXCEPTIONAL, THOUGH IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO DO SO.

3. IS POSSIBILITY STILL OPEN FOR DEBARKING REFUGEES IN MACAU? WE ASSUME UNHCR WOULD COVER COSTS. WITH HONG KONG FACILITIES OVERCROWDED, PERHAPS THIS CASE COULD ESTABLISH ASYLUM SITE THERE FOR SHIPS IN HONG KONG AREA. IF MACAU OPTION AVAILABLE AND NO PROBLEM FORESEEN IN FUTURE PROCESSING THROUGH HONG KONG OF ANY REFUGEES STAYING OR TRAVELING FROM THERE, PLEASE URGE ICEM TO CONTACT KUALA LUMPUR AND GENEVA FOR QUICK RESPONSE FOR UNHCR. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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